

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 13. Claims 12-26, of which claims 12 and 13 are independent in form, are presented for examination.

The Examiner has objected to the specification, stating that on page 11, line 15, "Figure 10" should instead be "Figure 3". Applicants have amended the specification in response to the Examiner's objection, and request that the objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Schilling et al., "Modification of the High-Rate Discharge Behavior of Zn-MnO₂ Alkaline Cells Through the Addition of Metal Oxides to the Cathode", *ITE Letters on Batteries, New Technologies and Medicine*, Vol. 2, No. 3 (2001), pp. 341-348 ("Schilling").

Claim 12 recites a method of manufacturing an alkaline battery comprising providing a positive electrode including an active cathode material including lambda-manganese oxide, and forming a battery including the positive electrode and a zinc electrode, wherein the active cathode material has a specific discharge capacity to a 0.8V cutoff of greater than 300 mAh/g at a discharge rate of 20 mA/g of active cathode material. Schilling does not anticipate claim 12, at least because Schilling fails to disclose an active cathode material with a specific discharge capacity to a 0.8V cutoff of greater than 300 mAh/g.

Schilling discloses tests cells that include different cathode mixes, such as cathode mixes that include lambda-MnO₂. (See, e.g., Schilling, 342-343.) Schilling tests these cells in order to evaluate their electrochemical performance, including their open-circuit voltage and closed-circuit voltage. (See *id.* at 342-344.) However, Schilling fails to disclose the discharge capacities of the active cathode materials in his cells, let alone an active cathode material with a specific discharge capacity to a 0.8V cutoff of greater than 300 mAh/g. And the Examiner has not indicated where Schilling discloses these features. Thus, Applicants submit that Schilling does not anticipate claim 12, and Applicants request that the rejection of claim 12 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to claims 13-26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has noted that claims 13-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form

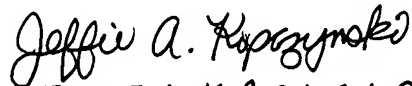
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including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 13 in response to the Examiner's objection, and request that the rejection of claims 13-26 be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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